Association and the All India Bank Employees Association in a joint press conference at Madras on June 9, 1992 demanded the constitution of a judicial commission headed by a Supreme Court Judge to investigate into the recnt scurities scam, particularly, for investigating the involvement of Bank officers and management in the scam:

(b) if so, what are their precise demand; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported by the Indian Banks' Association that although no communication has been received by them it is understood that the General Secretary, AIBOA and Secretary, AIBEA on the 9th June, 1992, in a joint press statement, had demanded either appointment of a Joint Parliamentary Committee or constitution of Judicial Commission to investigate into the involvement of bank officers and management in the security scam.

(c) The Prime Minister has requested the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha to proceed with the formation of a joint Parliamentary Committee.

Seizure of silver at Indore and Dhar

532. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contraband silver weighing about 6142 kilograms, valued at around rupees 4.38 crores was seized by officials of central excise and customs in Indore and Dhar districts in Madhya Pradesh on Monday, the 8th June, 1992;

(b) whether any gang of smugglers was busted in connection therewith, if so, the details thereof, the persons apprehended and their *modus operandi*; and

(c) what is the total amount of contraband silver so far seized during the current year, indicating the major hauls and the details of the smugglers' gang detected in connection therewith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Contraband silver weighing 6142 kgs. (approximately) value at Rs. 4.30 crores was seized by the officers of the Customs and Central Excise Collectorate, Indore on 7/8.6.1992 in Indore and Dhar districts of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

India's credit rating in International Market

533. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Governments' efforts to get its credit rating in the International Market have failed to achieve the desired results;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) The international credit rating organisations like the Standard & Poor (S&P) and the Moody's Investors' Service had not yet change their ratings for India which are in the non-investment grade. Although, the Japan Bond Research Institute (JBRI) has not changed the rating, the existing rating BBB indicating a medium degree of credit worthiness and so a safe investment. JBRI has also removed from the rating reappraisal scheme

the four Samural Bonds issued by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI).

The Government has undertaken a number of stabilisation policies and structural reforms in the sphere of trade, industry fiscal, financial and public sectors to induce efficiency and impart dynamism to the overall economic system. Within a short period the outcome of these measures has been encouraging. The foreign currency assets of the Reserve Bank of India have built up to a level of about $ 6.8 billion as on the July 10,1992. There are also signs of restoration of international confidence. Outflows under FCNR have slowed down. There has been a positive response from international investors and multilateral financial institutes.

Recovery of amount by Bank of Baroda from Bank of Credit and Commerce International

534. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bank of Baroda has to recover some amount from the Bank of Credit and Commerce International;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India have reported that Bank of Baroada had accepted a deposit of US $ 50 million from BCCI SA, London in December, 1990 under FCBOD Scheme and made available equivalent rupee funds to BCCI (overseas), Bombay. Bank of Baroda has already lodged its claim with the provisional liquidator of BCCI (O), Bombay, Bank of Baroda proposes to repay the foreign currency deposit of US $ 50 million to BCCI S/ only after their funds are recovered from BCCI (O), Bombay.

Halt in trading in Public Sector Bonds

535. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Undertakings had to sell their bonds at heavy discounts due to a virtual halt in trading of these bonds by banks; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Investigation by Income-tax Authorities into source of income of Harshad Mehta

536. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income tax authorities had made any investigation to find out the source of income of Shri Harshad Mehta, the Stock broker of Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof showing the income tax paid by Shri Mehta and his family members from 1989 to 1992 and also arrears of tax to be recovered from them;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to take any action against the income tax officers guilty of negligence or collusion; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Income-tax Department conducted searches on Shri Harshad Mehta, his family members and associate concerns in September, 1990 and February, 1992. In the searches conducted in September, 1990, unaccounted assets worth Rs. 4.79 crore were seized. During the